

AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine Oct., Nov. & Dec. 2004



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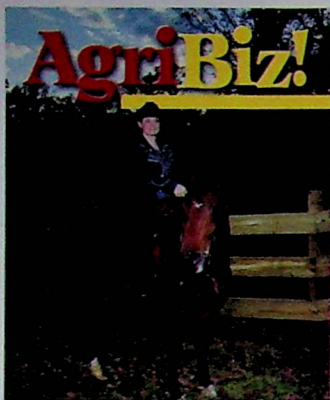


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Frank Stover, Sr.

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On the Cover:

FFA Member Rebekah Roof of Lexington, S.C., President of the SC American Quarter Horse Youth Association



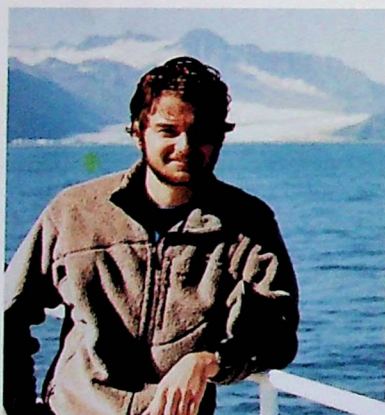
Choosing the Bridle Path



Honorary American FFA Degree Recipients

American FFA Degree Winners

Lexington FFA Members Provide Poinsettias to Governor's Mansion



FFA Members Decorate Christmas Trees

Summer in Alaska

Agri-Tourism at Cotton Hills Farm

Hall is Young Entrepreneur in SC

State FFA Soil Judging Champions

FFA Members Win Scholarships

West Virginia FFA Members Tour Sumter Cotton Farm

FFA Farm Days A Big Hit

Photos by John W. Parris except where otherwise noted.



John W. Parris
State Director,
Office of Public Affairs
Editor

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AgriBiz!

October, November & December 2004

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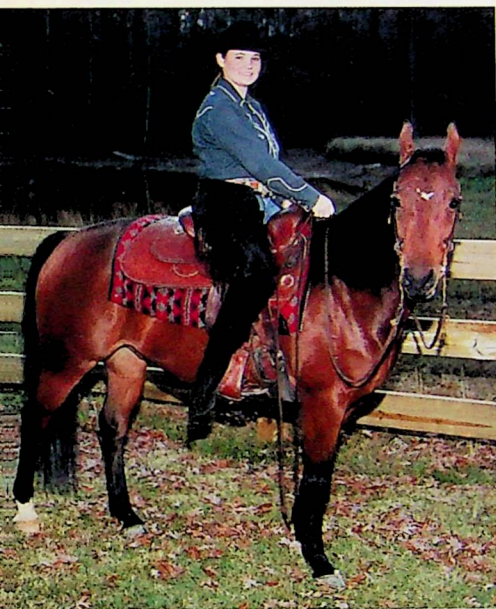
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Choosing the Bridle Path

by Rebekah Roof

When I begged my parents for a pony at the age of 7, I had no idea where this wish would take me. Unlike many parents, mine jumped right into the horse industry and purchased a gray Arabian/Welsh pony cross named Boomerang. In the beginning, I felt that he was related to the devil himself. I worked with him almost every day for several years, and we became best friends. He led me down the path to becoming an accomplished rider and solidified my love for horses. He is now invaluable.



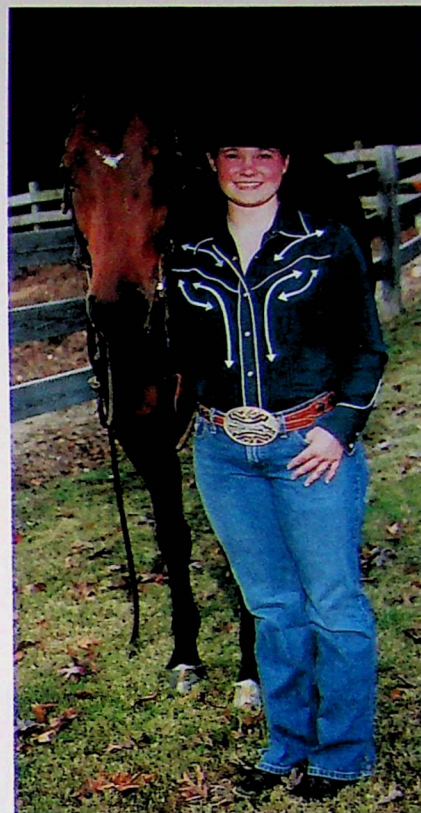
I have been fortunate to experience many different disciplines and breeds of horses in my 10 years of riding, but the American Quarter Horse has captured my heart. The American Quarter Horse Association is the largest breed organization in the world, with registered horses and members in the United States, Canada and rapidly growing internationally. Its youth program, the American Quarter Horse Youth

Association (AQHYA), is one of the largest youth organizations in the nation. Being an active member of this group has helped me develop skills and goals.

Through my involvement in AQHYA, I have had numerous opportunities. I attended the AQHYA Leadership Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, the American Youth Horse Council Leadership Symposium in St. Louis, Miss., and my favorite, the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio. I have had the opportunity to compete in horse judging, public speaking, leadership and team building workshops.

I serve as president of the South Carolina Quarter Horse Youth Association. The primary activity of this organization is to send competitive teams to the AQHYA World Show in Fort Worth, Texas, and the National Youth Activities Team Tournament at the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio. We have also established a scholarship fund with money we raised. I have acquired leadership skills such as parliamentary procedure, speaking to large groups and event planning.

Aside from the opportunities and activities these groups offer, they provide an environment for young people with a common interest in horses to work together and become a close-knit community. Youth who ride and show quarter horses are a completely different type of teenager. While most teens are dragging out of bed to make it to school on time, my sister, Lydia, and I have already completed our morning barn chores. Breakfast and water for our horses must be provided before leaving for school. In the fall, Friday evenings find us traveling to horse



shows, not football games with our classmates. Some have even missed proms because a show fell on the same day. It is a lot of hard work, but it ultimately pays off.

The greatest feeling in the world is competing with your horse and realizing your goals. You know your path of hard work has led to accomplishment. And to think it all began with an obstinate pony!

(Rebekah Roof, a senior at Lexington High School, is President of the SC American Quarter Horse Student Association and President of the Lexington Technology Center FFA Chapter.)

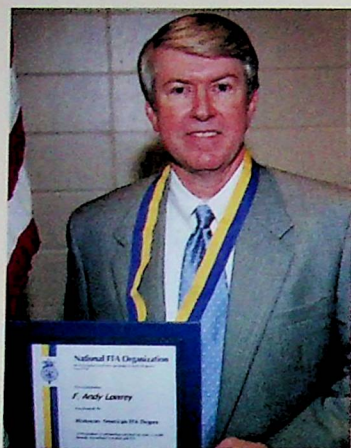
South Carolinians Awarded Honorary American FFA Degree

Six South Carolinians were awarded the Honorary American FFA Degree during the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., October 27-30, 2004.

Receiving the prestigious agricultural education award were **F. Andy Lowrey**, president and CEO, AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, Columbia; **Marty W. Coates**, member, S.C. House of Representatives and a former National FFA Officer, Florence; **Frances H. Price**, chairperson of the SC Farm Bureau's Women's Committee and a member of the

American Farm Bureau's Women's Committee, Gilbert; **Cathy Hughes**, publisher, *Orangeburg Times & Democrat* newspaper, Orangeburg; **Larry L. Koon**, member, S.C. House of Representatives, Lexington; and **Hugh Bland**, agricultural education teacher, Strom Thurmond Technology Center, Edgefield.

The Honorary American FFA Degree is the highest award presented to friends and supporters of the FFA by the 476,000-member agricultural education organization.



F. Andy Lowrey



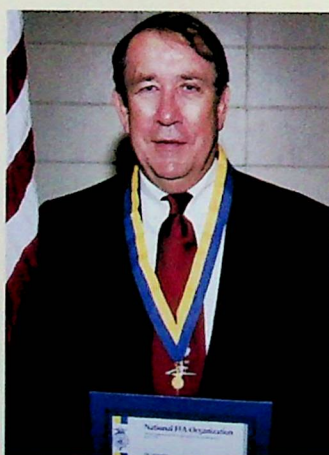
Marty W. Coates



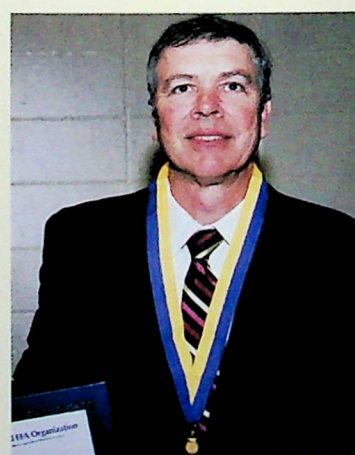
Frances Price



Cathy Hughes



Larry L. Koon



Hugh Bland

State FFA Officers Broadcast from National FFA Convention



The State FFA Officers presented a statewide broadcast live from the National FFA Convention Press Room on "America's Radio Show," hosted by **Andy Thomas** of Columbia, S.C. The program is heard in South Carolina and in parts of at least two other states. From left, State FFA Officers **Ethan Sansbury** and **Josh O'Rear**; **Bill Stagg**, Director of Communications, National FFA Organization; **M. Pat Black**, moderator, Branchville FFA Advisor; and State FFA Officers **Jamie Hughes**, **Jennifer Perkins** and **Ashley King** (State FFA Officer **Jonathan Dorn** was competing in a National FFA Career Development Event and could not participate.). **John W. Parris**, State Director of Public Affairs with the SC FFA Association, planned and directed the broadcast.

South Carolina Students Awarded the American FFA Degree

Eight South Carolina students were awarded the American FFA Degree during the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., October 27-30, 2004.

Receiving the award were **Bryan F. Armstrong**, Laurens Chapter; **Bryan W. Lowman**, Aiken Chapter; **Amanda McGee**, Crescent Chapter; **James S. Minus Jr.**, Edisto Chapter; **Christopher L. Moss**, Walhalla Chapter; **Tiffany Stamey**, Anderson Chapter; **Blake Stevens**, Loris Chapter; and **Joshua O. Waters**, Gilbert Chapter.

The American FFA Degree is the highest award presented to a select number of FFA members from throughout the nation by the National FFA Organization. Selection for this prestigious award is based on the student's supervised agricultural program, leadership skills, academic achievements and accomplishments in the FFA.



Seated, from left, are **Tiffany Stamey** and **Amanda McGee**. Standing, from left, are **Blake Stevens**, **James S. Minus Jr.**, **Christopher L. Moss**, **Bryan F. Armstrong**, **Joshua O. Waters** and **Bryan W. Lowman**.

Mission Statement

The mission of the FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

National FFA Convention

More than 600 FFA members, advisors, parents, school officials and other friends and supporters from South Carolina attended the 77th National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., October 27-30, 2004. Some photos of South Carolinians at the Convention:



1 Ashley Granata and Bryan Lowman met with Joe Theismann in the Convention Press Room.

2 Dr. Larry Case met with Honorary American FFA Degree recipients from South Carolina.

3 Ethan Sansbury carried the South Carolina flag during the opening ceremonies.

4 Retired agricultural educator Drefus Williams was greeted by National FFA President Javier Moreno.

5 Creek Bridge FFA Farm Business Management Team and Advisor with a John Deere official.

6 Carolina Forest FFA Advisor and chapter delegation in the Convention Hall.

7 Some Manning FFA delegates at the Convention Career Show.

8 Christopher Moss congratulated by parents, Thomas and Susan Moss.

SC FFA Teams and Individuals in National Finals

Agricultural Issues

Manning

Michael Haynes, Advisor

Agricultural Mechanics

Wagener-Salley

Allen Williams, Advisor

Agronomy

Strom Thurmond

Hugh Bland, Advisor

Creed Speaking

Manning

Michael Haynes, Advisor

Dairy Cattle Evaluation

Travelers Rest

Jason Wigington, Advisor

Dairy Foods

Abbeville

Fred Raines, Advisor

Environmental and Natural Resources

Calhoun Falls

Calvert Sherard, Advisor

Extemporaneous Speaking

Strom Thurmond

Hugh Bland, Advisor

Farm Business Management

Creek Bridge

Jerry Pace and Tim Keown, Advisors

Floriculture

Lexington

Tommy Harmon, Advisor

Forestry

Strom Thurmond

Hugh Bland, Advisor

Horse Evaluation

Hillcrest

Clark Woods, Advisor

Job Interview

Indian Land

Jerry Davis, Advisor

Livestock Evaluation

Gilbert

Derrick Cooper, Advisor

Nursery-Landscape

Indian Land

Jerry Davis, Advisor

Parliamentary Procedure

Manning

Michael Haynes, Advisor

Poultry

Indian Land

Jerry Davis, Advisor

Prepared Public Speaking

Strom Thurmond

Hugh Bland, Advisor

Lexington FFA Members Provide Poinsettias for Governor's Mansion

Lexington Technology Center FFA members produced and contributed the poinsettias used to decorate the Governor's Mansion at Christmas time. First Lady Jenny Sanford welcomed the students and Tommy Harmon, horticulture teacher; Kenneth Lake, technology center director; and John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA Association, who coordinated the event.



Lexington FFA members at the Governor's Mansion, from left, Lydia Roof, Jessica Hook, Matt Motes, Graham Inabinette, Justin Wright, Rebekah Roof and Ryan Greene; First Lady Jenny Sanford; Tommy Harmon, horticulture teacher; and FFA members Jacob Powers, Daniel Hood and Preston Rikard.

FFA Members Compete in Christmas Tree Decorating

Twenty-one FFA Chapters participated in a Christmas tree decorating event in conjunction with the 125th anniversary celebration of the SC Department of Agriculture in Columbia, S.C., December 1.

The Lexington FFA Chapter took top honors in the competition, followed by Golden Strip and Barnwell. The Gilbert and Rock Hill chapters received honorable mention.

The trees were donated by the SC Christmas Tree Growers Association. The Salvation Army delivered the decorated trees to special places in the Columbia area after the ceremony.



From left, Jessica Hook, Preston Rikard and Rebekah Roof, Lexington FFA members; Hugh Weathers, interim Commissioner of Agriculture; Jacob Powers, FFA member; and Tommy Harmon, horticulture teacher and FFA Advisor at the Lexington Technology Center.

Participating Chapters

Aiken
Barnwell
Batesburg-Leesville
Branchville
Chester
Chesterfield
Edisto
Fort Mill
Gilbert
Golden Strip
Lakewood
Latta
Laurens
Lexington
Midland Valley
Pelion
Ridge View
Rock Hill
Saluda
Wagener-Salley
Woodmont

Summer in

*by Alex Gleason, SC FFA Vice President, 2003-2004
photos courtesy Alaska FFA Association*



Alaska

What was I going to do for an entire summer after serving an amazing year as a State FFA Officer? This question plagued me as the State FFA Convention approached. I had applied for jobs in Alaska and Vermont, but nothing had materialized. I became increasingly impatient.

Little did I realize that a telephone call from Jeff Werner, State FFA Advisor in Alaska, offering me a position as a research assistant at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks would lead to an opportunity more exciting than I could have ever imagined. He explained that I would work in the Department of Horticulture, researching crop production in controlled and uncontrolled environments. I could not believe I was going to spend the summer in Alaska — one that would surpass all my expectations.

I worked in the interior of Alaska, where I had an opportunity to learn an immense amount about Alaska agriculture. The agriculture industry supplies food to Alaska's more than 600,000 citizens separated by thousands of square miles. Most of my consumer-product and observant research was conducted in university greenhouses, controlled high-tunnel farm projects and local produce markets. The research activities allowed me to obtain an overall understanding of Alaska's agriculture, whether it was the multibillion-dollar fishing and oil industries or the small private tomato and vegetable growers. My travels across the Alaskan landscape provided me an opportunity to experience the diversified spectrum that encompasses its agriculture.

Alaskans rely heavily upon imported produce during the seemingly endless winter months. However, the 22.5 hours of summer light yield a substantial variety of fruits and vegetables that boosts their economy. The rugged arctic soil and unpredictable climate are the largest risks to Alaskan farmers. The University of Alaska at Fairbanks is researching new crops that are weather-resistant and suitable to extended growing seasons. The research has proven beneficial in the Matanuska Valley, located 40 miles north of Anchorage. The area is the main site for agricultural cash crops and produces everything from farm-fresh milk to potatoes and carrots. The increased harvest is due to the rich windblown loess soil, lack of permafrost and a longer growing season.

Research in new techniques of controlled environments through greenhouses, high tunnels or hydroponics represents the possibility of endless growth and self-sufficiency for Alaskan markets. These production techniques and practices



will eliminate much of the high costs of importing goods from distant states, thus providing increased funds for infrastructure. Alaska's abundant natural resources and unique climate offer insight to the world into producing crops in some of the most diversified environments.



My experience in Alaska transformed my preconceived notions about the land, its culture and its people. The opportunity to live and work there was a

result of contacts I made as a State FFA Officer and my willingness to venture beyond the lower 48.



Agri-Tourism

A New Enterprise at Cotton Hills Farm

by Jeff and Carol Wilson

We enjoy producing cotton, wheat, soybeans and other crops on our family farm in Chester County, but because of drought and low commodity prices, it became necessary to look for additional sources of income.

Some years ago, one of the local teachers with a farming background asked to bring her class for a tour of our farm. We enjoyed watching the children become amazed by what we considered ordinary.

As the years passed, our sons, J.E.B. and Peter, began raising pumpkins as a source of extra income. As they and their business grew, we saw the potential for a new venture known as agri-tourism.

The entire family got involved in what was to become a new era at Cotton Hills Farm. Carol worked on contacting schools and making schedules. Our daughter, Brooke, promoted our efforts by creating brochures and an excellent Web site — www.cottonhillsfarm.com — that showcased what we had to offer. J.E.B. and Peter set about growing more pumpkins and helping us get the farm ready for visitors. We built wagons with benches for riding through the farm in addition to large picnic tables strategically placed around the log cabin adjacent to a beautiful pond.

Thanks to kind news reporters who wrote feature articles about our efforts, we were able to get the word out. Karen Bair wrote a wonderful piece titled, "Family Farm Spruces up the Fields for Tours," which appeared in *The Rock Hill Herald* in October 2000. Soon we were answering questions from teachers and other interested people. With assistance from family and friends who helped conduct the tours, we had a good first year doing mostly school field trips. We were convinced agri-tourism had a place at Cotton Hills Farm.

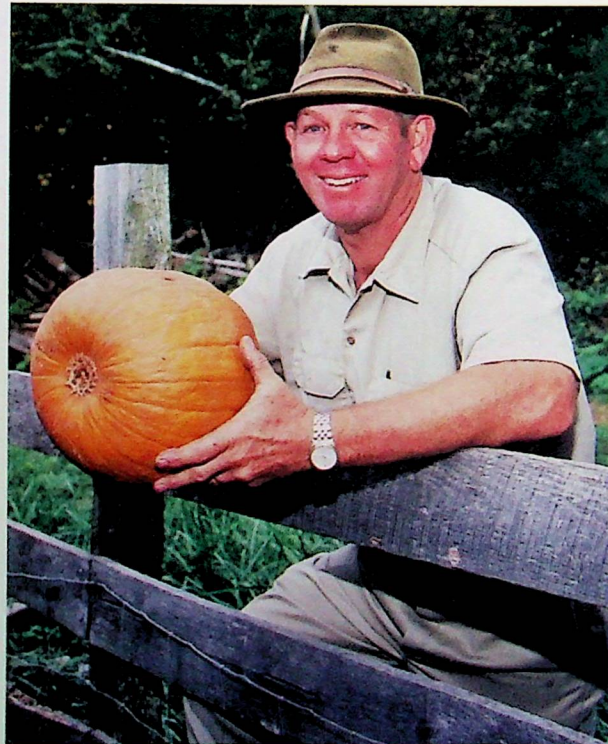
Capitalizing on our location adjacent to a busy major highway, we built a roadside produce market and ice cream stand in 2002. We also planted peach trees and a variety of vegetables to sell to the public.



Our local paper, *The Chester News and Reporter*, continued to carry more articles about our new enterprise. We advertised

regularly in the local paper and *The Rock Hill Herald*. Pat Gubbins with *The Charlotte Observer* wrote a great article featuring our younger son, Peter, titled "Pumpkins Pump Up This Teen," which was published October 23, 2003.

These articles were great for us and provided positive publicity about agriculture. By this time, we realized the demand exceeded the pre-arranged tours on weekdays, so we began opening the farm on Saturdays for everyone.



That same year, we designated one Saturday in October as Cotton Hills Farm Fair, during which we offered even more activities — pony rides, vendors selling fair food, pumpkin carving and painting contests, along with our usual wagon rides, maze and barnyard petting animals.

The event features special deals on everything in our market. Much of the activity takes place under the 2,300-square-foot tent, which had been purchased by our sons to display their pumpkins. We have experienced excellent response to the farm fair, especially among grandparents who delight in sharing some of their past with their grandchildren.



Jeff Wilson with students.

On October 8, 2004, *The Chester News and Reporter* published "Not Just Crops: Cotton Hills Farm Offers Tourism and Education." Written by Benjamin Entzoini, the article quoted J.E.B. as saying, "Tourism has become a vital cash crop on our farm." We not only practice agriculture, but we also promote it by educating students and adults about its importance.

When the students tumble from the buses wide-eyed and ready for adventure, it's a little scary. Three hours later, when we hear them talking about what they have learned and how it has been one of the best days of their young lives, it is fulfilling.

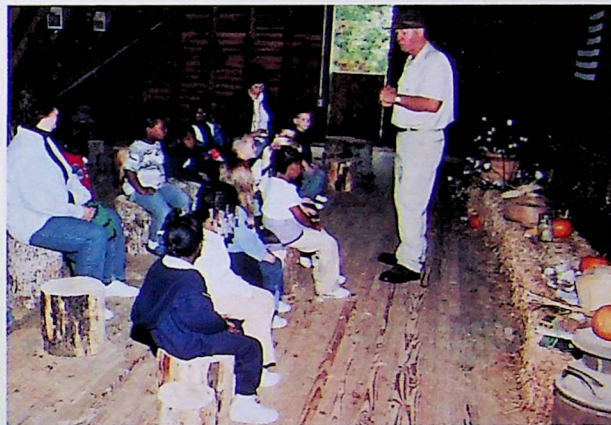
They have had a day of finding their way through a five-acre maze of cane sorghum, in addition to seeing and touching farm animals. They have visited our classroom in the top of a barn. There, we impress upon them that food does not come from some magic room, such as a grocery store or restaurant, but from thousands of farms all across this great country. Finally, we take them on a wagon ride, during which they see open fields



Carol Wilson with students.

with growing crops, forests, ponds and creeks, assorted wildlife — and, to their amazement, not a house anywhere.

These are a few of the reasons for adding agri-tourism at Cotton Hills Farm — profit, fun and education — not a bad way to spend a cool October morning!



(Jeff Wilson, a former Chester FFA member, is an active member of the Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter. Carol is an honor graduate of Winthrop University. Sons J.E.B. and Peter, former presidents of the Chester FFA Chapter, are in college. J.E.B., a graduate of Clemson University in agricultural economics, is in graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin. Peter is a freshman at Clemson majoring in agricultural economics. Daughter Brooke W. Clinton, a graduate of Erskine College and USC, is project director, Old English Consortium-American History Grant, Chester).

Hall Named Young Entrepreneur in South Carolina



Samuel Hall, second from left, with his father, **Bob Hall**, left, **Frank Sandifer**, York FFA Advisor, and **Helen Meyers**, president of the S.C. Council on Economic Education.

Samuel Hall, a junior at York Comprehensive High School and a member of the Floyd D. Johnson Technology Center FFA Chapter, has been named a Merrill-Lynch Young Entrepreneur in South Carolina by the S.C. Council on Economic Education.

Helen Meyers, president of the Council on Economic Education, said Samuel was selected for this prestigious honor because of his success in specialty crop production, such as fresh-from-the-field strawberries in the fall.

SC ETV officials and Meyers videotaped an interview with Samuel in one of his strawberry fields in November; the interview was shown on ETV's Instructional Channel 317 to schools statewide.

Samuel, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hall of York, was nominated for the award by John W. Parris, State Director of Public Affairs with the SC FFA Association. Frank Sandifer, agricultural education teacher at York, is Samuel's FFA Advisor.

Loris and Aynor FFA Teams in National Land Judging Finals

The Loris FFA Land Judging Team took first-place honors, and the Aynor Team was state runner-up in the South Carolina FFA Land Judging Finals at Playcard Environmental Center near Loris, S.C. Both teams won expenses-paid trips to compete in the National Land and Range Finals in Oklahoma in May.

Loris FFA team members are Chad Hughes, Kellie Long, Paiton Todd and Jason Gore. Ben Hardee is team advisor. Kellie Long was the high individual scorer and was also awarded an expenses-paid trip to the 2005 National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky.

Aynor FFA team members are Justin Roberts, Chris Johnson, Jordan Doyle and Blake Burris. Stacey Bazen is the team advisor. Justin Roberts was the second high individual scorer and won a silver watch from Montana Silversmiths. Chris Johnson, the third high individual scorer, received an FFA medallion.

South Carolina's FFA Land Judging Competition is sponsored by Progress Energy, Duke Energy, SCANA, the SC Association of Conservation Districts, the SC Conservation Districts Foundation and the Horry Conservation District as a special project of the SC FFA Association. Technical assistance is provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the SC Department of Natural Resources.



Joe Gregory, left, with Progress Energy, Raleigh, N.C.; Loris team members **Kellie Long**, **Chad Hughes** and **Paiton Todd**, team advisor **Ben Hardee**, team member **Jason Gore** and **Marc Connelly** with Duke Energy, Clemson, S.C.



Joe Gregory, left, with Aynor team member **Chris Johnson**, team advisor **Stacey Bazen**, and team members **Justin Roberts**, **Jordan Doyle** and **Blake Burris** with **Marc Connelly**.

Pelion FFA Wildlife Team Takes Top State Honors

The Pelion FFA Wildlife Management Team took first-place honors in the State FFA-sponsored finals at the National Wild Turkey Federation Headquarters in Edgefield, S.C. This is the fifth consecutive year a Pelion team has taken top state honors in the environmental science event.

Team members Gary Williamson, Jessie Blanton, Jeff Padgett and Ben Treaster, along with team advisor Frank R. Stover Jr., won expenses-paid trips to the National FFA Convention sponsored by Santee-Cooper as a special project of the SC FFA Association. Jeff Padgett and Jessie Blanton tied as high individual scorer in the event.



Frank R. Stover Jr., left, with State Champion FFA Wildlife Team members **Gary Williamson**, **Jessie Blanton**, **Jeff Padgett** and **Ben Treaster**.

FFA Activities at the State Fair

Approximately 600 SC FFA members, advisors, parents, sponsors and other supporters participated in the SC FFA Recognition Luncheon at Seawell's Restaurant in conjunction with the State Fair. Dr. John Kelly, vice president for Public Service and Agriculture at Clemson University, and Gary Goodman, general manager of the State Fair, addressed the group.

Creek Bridge FFA member Maurice McZeke and Doug McCormick, McBee FFA member, provided music during the luncheon. Manning FFA members Anthony Mack, Matthew Canty, Brandon Rogers and Andre Sweat served as the Color Guard.

State FFA Officers and Clemson University Collegiate FFA Officers participated in a three-hour broadcast moderated by Andy Thomas, host of "America's Radio Show" and the "Teen Forum," which reached portions of three states. A number of agriculture leaders, including Hugh Weathers, interim Commissioner of Agriculture; Dr.



Andy Thomas interviews the State FFA Officers during the radio show.

Calvin Schoulties, Dean of Clemson's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences; Wesley Harris, USDA Farm Service Agency official; Dr. Laurie Lawson with Clemson University; Jerry Holley, chairman of the Chesterfield County School Board; Margaret Owens of the SC Beef Board and others participated in the broadcast, which originated live from the SC FFA Exhibit in the Cantey Building on the State Fairgrounds.

Sponsors of 'America's Radio Show' Live from the State Fair and the National FFA Convention

Abbeville FFA Chapter
Anderson FFA Chapter
Belton-Honea Path FFA Chapter
B.J. Skelton FFA Chapter
Blacksburg FFA Chapter
Branchville FFA Chapter
Calhoun Falls FFA Chapter
Dixie FFA Chapter
Edisto FFA Chapter
Manning FFA Chapter
McBee FFA Chapter
York FFA Chapter
Dr. Tom Dobbins
Harry Dubose
Dr. Phil Fravel
John W. Parris
Frank R. Stover Jr.
Dr. Curtis White

FFA Members Awarded Scholarships

Four SC FFA members were awarded college scholarships during the 2004 State Fair. Cameron Burns, Secretary of the Pendleton FFA Chapter, was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship by the SC Farm Bureau in the Beef Cattle Division. Emily Waggoner, President of the Pendleton FFA Chapter, was presented a \$2,000 scholarship by the SC Farm Bureau in the Dairy Division.

Elisabeth Stamey, a member of the Chesterfield FFA Chapter, won a \$1,500 scholarship from the SC Farm Bureau, and Brandy Collins, a member and past President of the Batesburg-Leesville FFA Chapter, was awarded a \$750 scholarship provided by the SC Pork Board for her accomplishments in swine production and showmanship.



Cameron Burns with Kevin Yon, left, representing the SC Farm Bureau Beef Committee, and Josh O'Rear, State FFA Secretary.



Emily Waggoner with Rick Doran, who represented the SC Farm Bureau Dairy Committee.



Elisabeth Stamey with David Branham, left, SC Farm Bureau, and Gary Goodman, general manager of the State Fair.



Brandy Collins with Gerry Bonnette, left, SC Pork Board, and Gary Goodman, general manager of the State Fair.

West Virginia FFA Members Tour Sumter Cotton Farm

A chartered bus of FFA members accompanied by their agricultural education teachers and others from Greenbrier East High School, Lewisburg, W.Va., visited the James Brothers Cotton Farms and Ginning Facilities near Dalzell in Sumter County in October 2004.

Whit James, a co-owner of the James Brothers Farms, welcomed the group and explained the scientific and technological aspects of cotton production and marketing.

The students toured a cotton field and watched with great excitement as Whit operated a large mechanical harvester, picking six rows at a time.

They also toured the James Cotton Gin in Dalzell, where **Hastings James**, another co-owner of the farms, explained and demonstrated the modern technology required in the processing of cotton for market. They got to see the gin in operation.

"This was the first time most of the group had seen cotton in the field, a mechanical cotton harvester or a cotton gin in operation," said Woody Hanna, an agricultural education teacher at Greenbrier East High School.

Mike Coughlin, another agricultural education teacher, and Alvin Porterfield, a retired agricultural educator at Greenbrier East, were also on the tour.



Greenbrier East FFA members and advisors in a Sumter County cotton field. FFA Advisor **Woody Hanna** is at left; FFA Advisor **Mike Coughlin**, second from right, is with **John Weathers**, right, agricultural education teacher at Sumter County Career Center.

The tour was coordinated by John W. Parris, State Director of Public Affairs with the SC FFA Association, and arranged and hosted by John Weathers, agricultural education teacher at Sumter County Career Center. The career center's FFA Chapter provided refreshments.

SC Young Farmer-Agribusiness President in Action



John F. McGee, an Anderson County farmer and President of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association rode in the SC Apple Festival Parade in Westminster which was attended by thousands from a number of states. Clemson University senior **Kyle Hatcher**, a former State FFA President and a member of the Crescent Young Farmer-Agribusiness Chapter, drove the vehicle.

Manning Middle School FFA Chapter Chartered



Jamie Hughes, State FFA President, seated at left; **Darrell Daney**, President of the new chapter; **Ashley King**, State FFA Vice President, Manning; and **Lori Beth Rhodes**, Advisor.

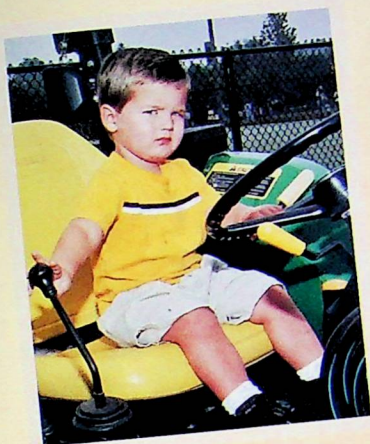
The Manning Middle School FFA Chapter was chartered during a special ceremony held September 15, 2004 at Clemson University's Pee Dee Research and Education Center near Florence, S.C.

Darrell Daney, an eighth-grade student and first President of the 100-member FFA Chapter, participated in the ceremony with **Lori Beth Rhodes**, agricultural education teacher and FFA Advisor at the school, who is a former member of the Manning FFA Chapter, a past State FFA Officer and a 2004 graduate of Clemson University with a degree in agricultural education.

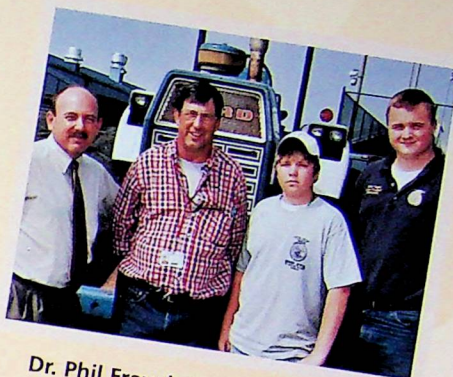
FFA Farm Days a Big Hit

Hundreds attended FFA-sponsored Farm Days at Belton-Honea Path and Travelers Rest high schools. Attendance was higher this year, according to agricultural educators Glenn Stevens and Jason Wigington. Farm Days are a great way to introduce students to modern agriculture technology and its exciting history.

Farm Day at Belton-Honea Path High School ...



Recruiting future FFA members begins early at Belton-Honea Path High School.



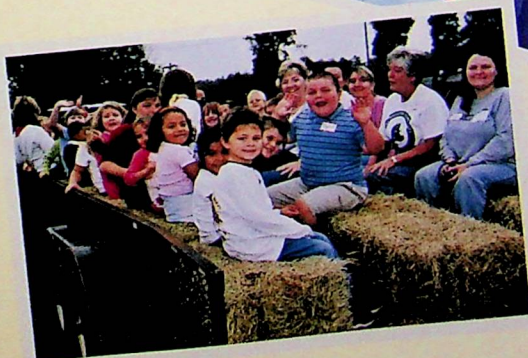
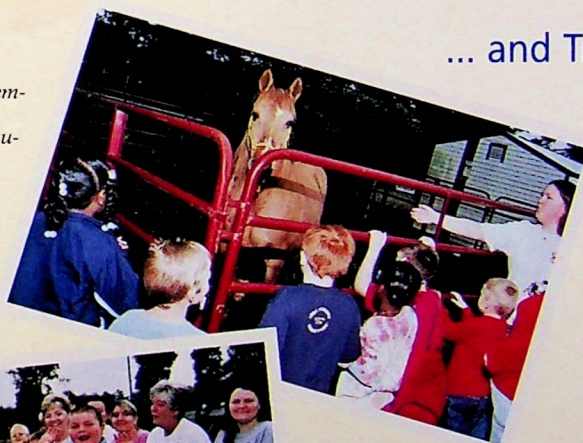
Dr. Phil Fravel, left, associate state director of Agricultural Education at Clemson University, with Glenn Stevens, agricultural education teacher at Belton-Honea Path High School, FFA member Daniel Baldwin and State FFA President Jamie Hughes.



Loren Hodgins, Belton-Honea Path FFA Chapter President, with chapter member Donnie Dooley and Jamie Hughes, State FFA President.

... and Travelers Rest High School.

Horses owned by FFA members were a big hit at the event, and hundreds of students enjoyed riding one during Farm Day.

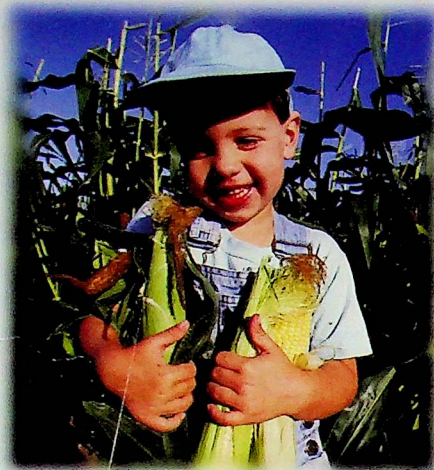


Hundreds of students, teachers and parents enjoyed a hay ride during Farm Day.



Travelers Rest High School FFA Chapter Officers with State FFA Secretary Josh O'Rear of Aiken, S.C., and Clemson University.

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